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Confidential

American Embassy
Paris, France
March 6, 1954

Dear Dean:

I received your most indulgent letter a short time ago in Rome. You are little short of a hero to have tackled this book. I must say I found it difficult to generate sufficient enthusiasm to go even as far as I did. Most of those Presidents were pretty dull fellows.

In spite of the fact that he was the most unloved of them all, I am inclined to think John Quincy Adams was the most interesting and, as a public servant, the most high-minded with the possible exception of George Washington.

We have had a giddy time here recently. After spending almost three weeks at the Berlin Conference, I was not loath to leave before the end. It seemed to me that Molotov and the members of his delegation lacked much of the fire usually so characteristic of them. The tune was the same but it was played in a much lower key.

I went from Germany to Belgium, where the EDC was shortly to be debated in the Senate. Van Zeeland and Spaak have no doubts about a successful outcome, which will probably transpire the end of next week.

Your old friend Dr. Bech has promised to put the measure through his one-chamber Parliament as soon as Belgium has definitively acted. Since there will be new elections in Luxembourg in May, the vote there on EDC would have to take place in April. The Committee has already reported it favorably and a majority would seem certain.

Although the Scelba Cabinet has not yet been approved by one house in Italy, everyone to whom I talked in Rome believes the EDC is assured of a majority if it can once be brought before the Parliament and carried to a vote. It appears that the Monarchists are supporting the Government in this respect. The winnings of such possible action is not, however, satisfactory. Because of

Acheson, Dean

The Honorable
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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